

Docket No.
524941/0023

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Akira Ichihashi, et al.

Group Art Unit: 2861

Application No.: 10/730,784

Examiner: Anh T.N. Vo

Filed: December 8, 2003

For: A PRESSURE DIFFERENTIAL REGULATING VALVE UNIT, A LIQUID
CARTRIDGE AND A METHOD FOR ASSEMBLING A LIQUID CARTRIDGE

Date: March 17, 2006

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PETITIONS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
MAR 17 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant form (PTO/SB/08A and/or B, PTO-1449, or equivalent).

The following checked sections apply to this Information Disclosure Statement:

- ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(ii) as revised at 69 Fed. Reg. 56481 (September 21, 2004), copies of the cited U.S. patent application publication(s) and/or U.S. patent(s) have not been submitted.
- ☒ The cited reference(s) were called to Applicant'(s) attention in a counterpart foreign patent application. A copy of the official communication in that counterpart foreign patent application citing the reference(s) is submitted herewith, and the Examiner is respectfully directed thereto for a concise explanation of the relevance of the cited art.
- ☒ At least some of the cited references are not (or the cited reference is not) in English, and so English abstracts of those references (that reference) are provided, if available.
- ☒ At least some of the cited references are not (or the cited reference is not) in English, and so machine English translations of those references (that reference) are provided, where available.
- ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under Sec. 1.53(d), (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in Sec. 1.491 in an international application, (3) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits, or (4) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a Request

for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Accordingly, neither a fee nor Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is due.

- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of any of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and so is accompanied by one of:

(1) A Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), which follows; or

(2) The fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), authorization for which follows.

- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by:

(1) A Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), which follows; and

(2) The fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), authorization for which follows.

- ☐ Fee Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p)

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) (\$180) to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

- ☐ Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement; or

No item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in Sec. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

- ☒ Additional Comments

Applicant(s) have the following additional comments:

The cited reference was called to Applicants' attention in the extended European Search Report for European Patent Appln. 05 02 4675, which is a counterpart to this application. A copy of the Search Report is enclosed, and the Examiner is directed thereto for a concise explanation of the relevance of the cited art.

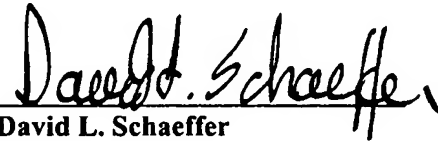
References EP 1 258 359 and JP 11-170558 already are of record in this case and so have not been cited again. JP 2002-205413, previously submitted, is again being cited because, due to a typographical error, the reference was previously listed as JP 2002-2-5413.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant form (PTO/SB/08A and/or B, PTO-1449, or equivalent) be returned to the undersigned indicating that such information has been considered.

Other than any fees mentioned above, no fees are believed to be due in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which are deemed to be now or hereafter due in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicant'(s) attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Schaeffer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "S".

David L. Schaeffer
Reg. No. 32,716
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP
180 Maiden Lane
New York, New York 10038
(212) 806-5400

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/730,784
Filing Date	December 8, 2003
First Named Inventor	Akira Ichihashi, et al.
Art Unit	2861
Examiner Name	Anh T.N. Vo
Attorney Docket Number	524941/0023

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

RECEIVED**MAR 17 2006****OFFICE OF PETITIONS****FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		JP-2002-205413-A	07-23-2002	Seiko Epson Corp.	w/ Engl. Abst. & Transl.	X
		WO-03/093019-A	11-13-2003	Ninestar Image Co.	w/ Engl. Abst.	

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

SSL-DOCS1 1669174v1

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete If Known

Application Number

10/730,784

Filing Date

December 8, 2003

First Named Inventor

Akira Ichihashi, et al.

Art Unit

2861

Examiner Name

Anh T.N. Vo

Attorney Docket Number

524941/0023

Sheet

2.

of

2.

Examiner
Initials*Cite
No.¹

Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

 τ^2

extended European Search Report in Appln. EP 05 02 4675.0 (February 6, 2006)

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the
USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete,
including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments
on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS
ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

SSL-DOCS1 1669174v1